



PARKVIEW NOBLE FOUNDATION

When Generosity Makes Childhood Possible

Thank to donors, Matthew feels like a normal kid.

Matthew Meyers is eight years old and attends Wolf Lake Elementary School, where his favorite subject is science. He likes to play drag racing video games, play baseball and shoot. "I have shot a shotgun, a rifle and BB guns!", Matthew says excitedly, "I go hunting with my dad and even shot two geese without really trying!"

Were it not for generous donors, Matthew might not be able to do any of these things. He was born with the life-threatening heart condition called Long QT Syndrome. His first symptoms occurred at just 18 months old, when he collapsed, unconscious, as his mother was watching him play.

Parkview Noble EMS responders were there from the beginning. Not only did they respond to numerous medical emergencies that Matthew suffered, they got to know the boy and his family well during the first few years of his life. After Matthew's first full cardiac arrest, Parkview Noble EMS responder Drew Hoskins knew the family needed an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) at their home. The Parkview Noble Foundation offered to provide the AED to the family, using funds they received from donors for "above and beyond" health needs, just like these.



The AED was a game-changer for Matthew and his family. Parkview Noble EMS responders trained the family on how to use it, so that if he collapsed

at home again they would be able to take lifesaving measures while waiting for first responders. With their new training, and equipped with the AED, Matthew's family knew they no longer had to worry about being unable to respond to tragic events at home.

Less than a year later, Matthew had a second cardiac arrest while he was playing baseball in his backyard. He felt the attack coming on, and collapsed as he was walking toward the house. His mother rushed to prepare the AED, while waiting for help to arrive. Luckily a local fireman neighbor, arrived and took over just as she was ready to deliver the shock. Because of their AED training, she knew she could have done what was necessary, but was relieved that someone with more experience was there to assist.

"I just feel like a normal kid. It used to be scary when I was younger."

Today, Matthew lives an almost normal life, thanks in no small part to Parkview Noble Foundation donors and the village of individuals who have been there from the beginning to support him and his family. He loves to run and is excited to be playing baseball again this year.

"I just feel like a normal kid," says Matthew, "It used to feel scary when I was younger, but now I mostly think about baseball, school and other kid things."

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When Independence is Only a Ramp Away

Generosity changed Rita's life.

Rita Combs had always been very active, working and raising her children. But when she had to start relying on a wheelchair, she found herself needing assistance just to leave her home.

The Noble County EMS (Emergency Medical Services) noticed that Rita was regularly requesting assistance to leave her home and navigate the porch steps, in order to gain access to the Noble Transit vans that took her to dialysis and other appointments. Noble County EMS set things in motion for Rita to receive a house call from the Parkview Noble Hospital Community Paramedicine program.

It was immediately evident during the house call that Rita needed a handicap accessible ramp. Because she was home-bound and her family and friends were no longer able to assist her down the steps, Rita was dependent on EMS to help her into the Noble Transit or other vehicles.

Unfortunately, Rita was not be able to afford the cost of a ramp. Enter: the Parkview Noble Foundation-- which raises funds to support the needs of patients to help improve their health and promote well-being in Noble County. Rita was very fortunate that local donors stepped in to help her regain her independence. These generous gifts covered the cost of materials for the ramp. EMS House Calls coordinated the efforts,

and Destiny Family of Faith provided the volunteer manpower to construct the ramp. Rita was excited and grateful to see her community come together to make a handicap accessible ramp a reality for her.

And the ramp has changed Rita's life.

"I was so scared of falling before - and I don't get back up easily," Rita laughed, "But now I've got my independence back. I can even get out and go grocery shopping on my own again!"



Her family sees her often and are lovingly supportive of her. Her daughter-in-law takes her to most of her doctor's appointments, and has even been trained as a caregiver. Rita's son helps get her into the car (when needed). Noble Transit still takes her to dialysis, but with the ramp, Rita no longer has to depend on EMS to help her in and out of the house.

The ramp brought Rita what may be the best gift of all, "I even got to go to my niece and nephew's for Christmas this year - that was the first time in years that I've been able to do that!"

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Contact Your Parkview Foundation

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"The Foundations of Parkview Health inspire the generous spirit of our community that brings gifts of healing and comfort to everyone Parkview serves."

ParkviewFoundations.org

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